MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MARCH 1982

Syria

Habib Mission -- U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib arrived in Damascus and was received by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, SANA reported. According to Monte Carlo radio, Habib subsequently met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Hamah Situation -- Damascus radio reported that 100,000 Hamah residents staged an angry march in the city to denounce the crimes of the Muslim Brotherhood. An official told the crowd that the Iraqi and Jordanian rulers will be called to account for their financial and military support to the Brotherhood. In a speech to the demonstrators a Hamah shaykh denied rebel claims that the Syrian Ba'th Party bans citizens from performing religious rites. The radio also broadcast several interviews with Hamah citizens who provided further details of the events of 3 February. Among the interviewees were several Muslim Brotherhood members, one of whom said the Hamah uprising had brought about the end of the organization and was a desperate move following firm measures by security forces against Brotherhood bases in the Hamah region. He asserted that some Arab countries such as Jordan and Iraq took advantage of the Brotherhood and sent it large quantities of weapons.

PNF Statement -- In a statement carried by the radio, the Central Command of the Progressive National Front accused imperialist-Zionist forces of goading the Muslim Brotherhood into causing domestic trouble in Hamah. Warning that plots against Syria's steadfastness will continue, the statement said increasing economic pressures against Syria will necessitate austerity measures. It also said that Syria will do its utmost to achieve greater cohesion with the Palestinian revolution and thwart plots to undermine Syrian-Palestinian unity, and that Syria's friendship with the Soviet Union will be strengthened.

Jordan

Commentary on Habib Mission -- Asserting that Israel is making immoral use of Philip Habib's mission, Amman radio said it would not be surprising if Israel takes advantage of Habib's fourth tour of the region to launch a wide-scale attack on Lebanon, regardless of the embarrassment it may cause to the U.S. administration. Noting that Israel has cited Habib as praising Israel's restraint toward the Palestinians and as reconfirming Israeli statements justifying an attack, the radio said there is no doubt that Habib will deny what the Israeli media have attributed to him because a mediator can never use the language of one of the conflicting parties at the expense of truth and reality.

Al-Yarmuk Volunteers -- King Husayn bade farewell to the first batch of the Al-Yarmuk forces to leave for Iraq, Petra-JNA noted. According to Monte Carlo radio, informed sources in Amman revealed that over 5,000 volunteers have so far joined the Al-Yarmuk forces.

Lebanon

During the night shore-based artillery fired at Israeli helicopters and boats that were reconnoitering the southern coast up to west Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also said a car bomb explosion in Tripoli wounded 14 persons, including 8 Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) soldiers. A clash between an ADF patrol and armed members of the popular resistance in Tripoli likewise caused casualties, the radio added.

Israel

No-Confidence Motion Defeat -- By a vote of 58 to 4 with 43 abstentions, the Knesset defeated the no-confidence motion introduced by the Tehiya faction, IDF radio reported.

In a speech against the motion, carried by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said IDF forces were brought to the Yamit area to prevent bloodshed. He announced that on

3 March the IDF will begin evacuating from the Sinai all those who are not permanent residents, and noted that as he was speaking, yeshiva students were already being evacuated from Ofira. Though calling it a tragedy, Sharon said the Sinai withdrawal is a commitment and Israel will carry it out. He accused withdrawal opponents of harming security by diverting the IDF from its normal duties, straining a tight defense budget, harming Israel politically and sowing disunity. He urged the antiwithdrawal movement to remove its own people and not force the government to do it.

In his summing up address carried by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared that sacrifices for the sake of peace are better than the sacrifices demanded by war, and proclaimed that Israel will honor all commitments undertaken in the Camp David accords and peace treaty with Egypt.

Border Dispute -- A HA'ARETZ commentary pointed out that despite Israel's evacuation measures, the government has made it unambiguously clear that if negotiations to demarcate the final border with Egypt are not concluded before 26 April, Israel will not move from the present line. Whereas Egypt wants to determine the border according to the 1948-49 armistic line, Israel insists on the 1906 line as required by the peace treaty, the paper explained. Although the disagreements involve only 2 km at one site and 500 meters at another, the paper cited Sharon's statement that withdrawing before the border's demarcation would be sowing the seeds of disaster.

Egypt

Autonomy Committee -- Egypt reiterated its opposition to Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the meeting in Cairo of the tripartite committee on Palestinian autonomy, MENA reported.

Mubarak's Visit to Israel -- President Husni Mubarak told foreign journalists that he will determine later whether to visit Jerusalem during his forthcoming visit to Israel, MENA reported.

Libya

In a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi castigated Saudi Arabia for flooding the oil market with cheap oil and said Libya should train over 1 million citizens to use modern weapons to ensure that the United States is incapable of occupying Libya. Asserting that Libyans used to feel ashamed at the presence of U.S. companies in their country, Al-Qadhdhafi said there is no longer room for any U.S. company in Libya.

Saudi Arabia

Response to Al-Qadhdhafi -- Dismissing Al-Qadhdhafi's speech as trivialities and lies, a "responsible source" cited by Riyadh radio said the attack on the kingdom was not surprising from a man accustomed to harming Arab relations, dividing Arabs and standing with the enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

Denial of AWACS Restrictions -- In an exclusive statement reported by the London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz denied a statement attributed to a Pentagon source that Saudi Arabia signed an agreement with the United States incorporating restrictions or conditions on the use of the five AWACS aircraft purchased by the kingdom. The minister denied completely that an American crewwill take part in flying and operating the aircraft.

Iran

An Iranian Government statement broadcast by Tehran radio announced Iran's agreement to the exchange of visits by families of POW's via Kuwait and Turkey and under International Red Cross supervision. However, Iran is opposed to the Iraqi suggestion that the exchange start on 15 March, the statement said, and suggests any other date.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE TO BEGIN 15 MARCH

BK021549 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 2 Mar (AFP) -- The long-awaited national conference of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) will begin on March 15 in Kabul, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

Quoting a statement made by Asadollah Keshtmand, deputy chairman of the PDPA's International Relations Commission, the sources here said preparations for the conference had already started in the Afghan capital.

Elections of party delegates from the provinces have nearly been completed, the sources said.

The conference, the second of its kind since the party was formed in 1965 and first since the Soviet Union marched its troops into Afghanistan in December 1979, is likely to have a far reaching effect on the political realignment between the two warring factions of the PDPA -- the Khalqis and the Parchamis -- area analysts said.

AFP: KABUL RELATIVELY CALM; REBELS ON DEFENSIVE

BK021706 Hong Kong AFP in English 1545 GMT 2 Mar 82

[By Alain Faudeux]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, 2 Mar (AFP) -- Kabul has become relatively calm, enabling the Afghan Government to lift the state of alert for city garrisons ordered two weeks ago, according to Western diplomatic sources here.

Army action and the winter that has paralysed resistance movements outside the city appear to have cut down the resistance inside Kabul to a minimum.

The sources however reported two incidents in the capital last week: an explosion and the kidnapping of an army officer.

Outside Kabul, although certain zones like the Paghman region north of the city are frequently attacked by mujahidin, who have scored isolated victories, the resistance on the whole has been on the defensive for several weeks.

Evidence from different sources indicates that the cold and the shortage of arms and ammunition have affected the morale of resistance fighters. In the words of the commander of a group of Afghan rebels in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, near the Afghan border:

"The less the mujahidin fight, the less they have the means for it, because it is war booty that forms the basis of their equipment in the majority of regions."

Western diplomatic sources meanwhile reported that joint Soviet and Afghan forces encircled the northern town of Mazar-e Sharif for two days last month.

According to Afghan-sourced reports received in Kabul, the troops searched the city for arms caches and men seeking to avoid conscription. A similar operation was carried out in Herat in southwest Afghanistan.

Qandahar, the country's second-largest city, was recaptured only after several days' bombardment.

According to the same source, however, the search of Mazar-e Sharif was not enough to impose lasting calm, because there were clashes late last month in its suburbs between government forces and rebels.

Diplomats believe Soviet forces have been strenghened in this zone to protect the road linking Kabul to the Soviet Union in the Qonduz frontier province and the road between the town of Qonduz and Mazar-e Sharif, where the mujahidin allow civilian traffic but attack military convoys.

USSR COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER LEAVES KABUL

GF021711 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Vasily Aleksandrovich Shamshin, the Soviet minister of communications, left Kabul today for his country.

KABUL SCORES ZIAUL HAQ REGIME FOR ARRESTS

GF030634 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] A weekly published in the (?FRG), THE REBELLION, has said that several women have been arrested in Pakistan along with the 3,000 persons recently arrested. These arrests have been admitted by the military government in Pakistan.

According to the paper, the arrested women have been transferred to Lahore fort, which is one of the most feared and notorious prisons in Pakistan, and are being subjected to physical torture. THE REBELLION further states that a considerable number of women have also been arrested [word indistinct]. Many women [word indistinct] have been also detained in their houses for their opposition to the military dictatorship.

A weekly published in Lahore, the NEW TIMES, has said that Faisalabad police a few days ago arrested an important woman, [name indistinct]. The weekly said that an arrested woman, (Nasira Begum), [word indistinct] in a statement has said that her mother was also arrested without warrant or charge by the police of the military regime. She is presently being subjected to physical torture at Lahore fort.

NEW TIMES said that this is not the first time that respectable women have been subjected to detention and arrests by the Islamabad administration, noting that this practice began soon after the military regime came to power.

As is usual with dictatorial regimes in Pakistan, during its long history, General Zia is also determined to destroy all opposition to the military regime in the name of Islam and its sacred values.

Two days before putting chains on 3,000 people, General Zia's regime, in order to smooth public opinion in favor of their acts of terrorism, announced that they had discovered a copy of the holy Koran filled with explosives and that it was to have been presented to some important person as a gift. The Pakistani military junta put the responsibility for this fabricated incident on the opposition to the military regime and shamelessly announced that the terrorists, that is, persons receiving education in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, were responsible for the act. However, these old tactics are now quite useless.

BAKHTAR has stated that the DRA respects Islam and the sacred articles of Islam, and that whatever it has done so far has been in conformity with the religion of Islam and the Koranic teachings. It will never allow anybody to commit such sacrilege. The BAKHTAR statement said that while condemning this shameless and indecent accusation by the military leadership in Pakistan, we maintain that evidence shows that the Islamabad leadership has fabricated the incident to make the opposition unpopular and to prepare the basis for the arresting and disgracing its opposition.

GANDHI ON KASHMIR ISSUE, OPPOSITION PARTIES

BK030841 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that all issues with Pakistan including Kashmir should be settled bilaterally as per the Simla Agreement. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at Ranchi Airport this morning during her brief stopover on her way back to Delhi from Jamshedpur. She said she fails to understand why Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the Human Rights Commission at Geneva.

Earlier, addressing a Congress-I workers meeting in Jamshedpur at the end of her 1-day visit to Bihar, Mrs Gandhi said the opposition parties are least concerned about the interest of the country. Their entire effort has been both in the past and present to come to power. She said that the country is passing through a most difficult period and under these circumstances it should be the responsibility of the opposition to think about the interest of the nation. Mrs Gandhi urged party workers to remain in contact with the masses.

INDIAN EXPRESS DEPLORES CHEMICAL ARMS RACE

BK021412 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Feb 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Deadly Contest"]

[Text] The apparent revival of the chemical weapons race between the super powers is a frightening development. It is another manifestation of the perverted logic of deterrence espoused by the two. Last year, the U.S. President, Mr Ronald Reagan, secured $23 million from the Congress to reactivate a poison gas manufacturing facility. That it was no symbolic gesture has become clear from his recent budget proposals for 1983 which include a hefty outlay of $705 million for developing a variety of lethal gases and delivery systems. Indeed, this is reported to be the first installment of a five-year $6-billion programme for chemical warfare preparations approved by Mr Reagan. Not surprisingly, the U.S. resolve is being defended on the ground that the Soviet Union has been vigorously pursuing this course and is not hesitating to use such weapons to further its militaristic ambitions.

According to publicised American intelligence reports, "yellow rain," a chemical poison, has been used against Soviet enemies in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Even more alarming is the allegation that a factory in Siberia -- it is claimed that it suffered an accident some time ago which was hushed up -- is producing anthrax, a deadly biological poison. It is difficult to trust the claims and counter-claims made by the super powers in such matters, but the fact remains that both seem to be determined to develop these heinous weapons with every intention of deploying them whenever and wherever they feel threatened.

The logic of deterrence that is supposed to be served by the escalating nuclear and conventional arms race, which actually aggravates the danger, is being used in the present case as well. In fact, the U.S. has proposed a total ban on chemical weapons by all countries, even while initiating its own large-scale programme to develop such arsenal. Apparently, it believes that this would induce the Soviet Union to abandon its own activities in this area. But such bans are far from reassuring. Sane people, especially scientists, everywhere should wage a relentless campaign not only to ban the manufacture of such weapons but also to destroy existing stockpiles.

HAQ ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH INDIA, ARRESTS

BK021554 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that we are maintaining close contact with India regarding the resumption of talks on Pakistan's no-war pact proposal. And we hope that India's reply will be positive. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Karachi from Rawalpindi this afternoon. He said that we hope that the Indian foreign secretary will visit Islamabad at an appropriate time for the resumption of talks.

Answering a question concerning the law-and-order situation in the country, the president said that we are making efforts to maintain law and order. He said that there have been some incidents of lawlessness which included subversive activities in addition to robbery and theft. Countrywide arrests have been made to crush such activities. Among those arrested are notorious criminals, antisocial elements and persons of doubtful character. Besides this, persons patronizing these elements have also been arrested.

In reply to a question, the president said that no politician was detained under this countrywide campaign and it is solely aimed at checking lawlessness.

He stressed that complete justice will be provided to the arrested persons. He said that we have not taken any step during the past 4 and 1/2 years which was detrimental to the self-respect of any person or contradicted the law of the country.

In reply to a question, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that he has received the report of the Islamic ideology council on the problems faced in connection with preparing a future political system based on Islamic principle. He said that he hopes that the council's complete recommendations regarding the guidelines determined by him will be received within 1 month. When asked if this will pave the way for the establishment of an Islamic system of government, the president said that he hopes so.

615 'ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS' ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD

GF020612 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, Feb 27 -- In a joint operation, the martial law and police authorities launched an all out drive against the criminal and antisocial elements throughout Hyderabad division.

The drive, which got underway on Feb 25, resulted in the nabbing of 171 antisocial elements by the evening of the same day. The operations over the next 24 hours and a further 248 criminals of all types were arrested. [sentence as published]

By the morning of Feb 27, the crack down had resulted in the arrest of 615 ciminals, which included 112 antisocial elements, 215 thieves, 11 robbers, 34 goondas, 46 narcotic dealers, 16 liquor dealers, 29 harbourers of criminals, 34 habitual offenders, 18 bad characters, 12 murderers, ten unlicenced arms holders and 79 known criminals.

KHOMEYNI URGES JUDGES TO PROTECT CLERGY'S HONOR

LD021122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Mohammadi Gilani, head of the religious judges of the Islamic Revolution Courts of the Central Province, and Mr Musavi-Tabrizi, the Islamic revolution prosecutor general, together with religious judges of the Islamic Revolution Courts of the Central Province this morning met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The imam of the nation, in a speech at this meeting, said: Today, the burden of responsibility held by religious judges is very heavy since they should both protect Islam's honor and the reputation of the clergy. The enemies of Islam spread lies and magnify your weaknesses in an attempt to blemish the honor of the clergy and reduce the clergy's influence in promoting Islam, to enable them to destroy Islam and achieve their own evil aims.

Today, the responsibility of religious judges is more important than it was at the dawn of Islam. At that time, religious judges were advised to protect the rights of the people. Today, in addition to that responsibility, protecting the honor of the clergy as a whole is at stake, too; therefore, you should be careful about the way you behave and act. Of course, even if you act exactly in accordance with Islam, the enemies of Islam will not stop spreading lies and accusations, since they do not believe in Islam or the revolution. You should try not to give them any excuses by your weaknesses.

The imam of the nation also wished the officials success and stressed the importance of guiding prisoners. He recommended that more effort should be directed toward guiding and assisting prisoners.

KHAMENE'I ON OPPOSITION, FOREIGN POLICY

GF030648 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 82 p 14

[Excerpts of KEYHAN interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Since you have been involved with events of the country from the first days, please tell us how the counterrevolutionaries gained the opportunity for growth following the victory of the revolution?

[Answer] I should say that the responsibility for this lies with the interim government. This government did not have a clear policy and was not following a defined line and this created the opportunity for the counterrevolutionary minigroups to grow. What was given the minigroups as liberty was nothing but a permit to carry out sabotage. Nowhere in the world are internal enemies who intend to overthrow the regime allowed to operate. Of course, their revolutionary slogans and the money and arms for them from abroad brought the end of their era closer.

[Question] The Islamic Republic on the one hand does not want to have bad relations with other countries and on the other hand wishes to aid the liberation movements in the world. Nowadays some people ask whether it is possible to maintain good relations with the countries whose liberation movements -- which are in the minority and under pressure in such countries -- we want to help?

[Answer] This is a delicate point. The idea of aiding liberation movements can be looked at in two ways. One is in the form of intervention in the internal affairs of another country and by carrying out acts of sabotage. We are against this.

On the other hand, we can offer the world our experience of the revolution and culture. Naturally, should they use such experience, then they would become the best liberation movements in the world. We will not hesitate to aid in such a manner since this does not contradict friendly relations with any country. No one can tell us to stop publicizing our version of Islam or stop us from describing our revolution to the people of the world. Therefore, all those who have conditions similar to ours during our revolution will benefit. We have, therefore, aided the liberation movements in the best possible manner and no government has had the right or power to tell us that we have intervened in their internal affairs.

[Question] As the head of the executive branch in the country, what are the basic problems of the Islamic Republic at present?

[Answer] We have many problems. There are problems in the economy, internal and foreign policy, security and others. They are all there and we will not downgrade them. Yet, I have to point out that all these are natural to us and interconnected. I consider them a problem of transfer. The people should be aware that this society has come out of an era of dependence, corruption, lack of human values and lack of growth of human characteristics. This was not earned cheaply. We are doing our utmost to form an ideal (?society) which will have no economical or cultural dependence.

[Question] The Islamic revolution is a new hope for the Muslims of the world, especially those who are fighting against oppression and colonialism. In many cases individuals have expressed the wish to come to the Islamic Republic and work for the revolution. However, they have not been permitted to do so and this has discouraged some. What is your guidance on this matter?

[Answer] I confess that we are like a weak stomach that cannot digest the necessary food. If we want to blame someone about this it would be the same deposed shah and his masters as well as all their agents who should be damned. They did not allow the nation to completely organize in a manner where everything is at its correct place. We hope to gradually cure this and, God willing, we hope to put everything in the Islamic Republic in its correct place.

[Question] Do you have a message for KEYHAN readers?

[Answer] I hope that at the beginning of the 4th year of the Islamic revolution this small child can further identify itself. We feel that a great plot is being hatched in the whole world to ensure that this revolution remains unrecognized. A worldwide propaganda network is trying to maintain or curtail the world's limited knowledge about this revolution. We want the people of the world to liberate themselves from this international propaganda network and to take a new look at this revolution.

IRAQI REQUEST FOR CEASE-FIRE SEEN AS 'TRICK'

LD021200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] IRNA, quoting reliable sources, reported that following the heavy defeat suffered by the invading Iraqi Army in Tang-e Chazzabeh in an attempt to recapture Bostan, the unbridled Baghdad regime has resorted to another trick in order to suppress its army's popular [word indistinct] in these operations and, in the opinion of military experts, to prevent its complete destruction or forced retreat, by asking the International Red Cross to request the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept a temporary cease-fire to allow the Iranians to collect the bodies of their dead soldiers in this region.

Military sources believe that, given the tactical importance of the Chazzabeh region and its specially sensitive situation, the Baghdad regime has asked for a temporary cease-fire on this front in order to fortify its positions in the region which have become extremely vulnerable and weakened following its defeat, and in order to prevent the certain destruction of its forces or other forces. This will inevitably lead to the evacuation of those regions. It is noteworthy that our Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the International Red Cross in an official note to send representatives to the southern fronts to see the bodies of the Iraqi soldiers and to realize the falsity of Saddam's claims.

After the successful surprise Jerusalem Path operation, which resulted in the liberation of Bostan, Saddam, who had previously announced tht if Bostan was captured he would present the Iranians with the key to Baghdad, asked the International Red Cross to go to the region in order to see the bodies of Iranian soldiers. Representatives of this organization accepted the invitation and visited the fronts. They officially announced that the bodies they saw were of Iraqi soldiers. This was another political defeat which followed the heavy military defeat suffered by Saddam.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 806

LD021742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] In His exalted name. According to reports received from the war fronts in the southern and western parts of the country, the relentless struggle of the forces defending the Islamic revolution to destroy the invading enemy yielded the following results in the past 24 hours:

In the sector to the west of Dezful, artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed 12 enemy trenches and killed or wounded 45 of the aggressors.

On the Shush, Reqabiyeh and Susangerd fronts, our forces' fire destroyed an ammunition dump, six trenches and observation posts and one vehicle of the enemy. At least 30 of Saddam's troops were killed.

In the operational sectors of Abadan and Khorramshahr, our combative forces destroyed a tank, two boats and several trenches of the Saddamists.

Yesterday the aggressor enemy armed forces opened heavy-weapon fire on the residential districts of Abadan, destroying several houses and wounding or martyring several of our compatriots.

Our forces also achieved some successes on the western fronts. In the Meymak sector, five enemy trenches full of troops and an enemy gun emplacement and the servicemen manning it were destroyed.

Our forces' fire on an enemy supply route in the Sumar region resulted in the killing or wounding of several Iraqi soldiers.

Our artillery fire also destroyed an enemy machinegun, several trenches, a supply depot and a motor pool in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector.

In the Tang-e Hajian region, our zealous tribesmen penetrated the enemy's positions and seized some of their arms and ammunition.

Our artillery units opened fire on an enemy supply depot on the Gilan-e Gharb heights, killing eight enemy soldiers. Several of the enemy were also wounded.

On 23 February 10 of our dear combatants in the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran gained martyrdom status on the southern and western fronts and through this wise decision found eternal places for themselves next to the other martyrs of Islam.

IRAQI COMMANDERS DISCUSS FATE OF IRANIAN POW'S

LD021200 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 2 Mar (IRNA) -- Intercepted radio contacts of the recent Iranian counter-attack in Tang-e Chazzabeh between two Iraqi commanders revealed the plight of captured Iranians in Iraq.

In a contact between two commanders on the issue of Iranians captured in the enemy offensives beginning February 11th, one of the commanders asking his superiors what to do about the captives commented "there is no possibility for their transfer" to which the other commander, named Vahan, said "we have no need for captives".

The report, which was revealed by Captain Mahmud Husseyni, the telecommunications officer of the Tang-e Chazzabeh war zone, exposes the fate of Iranian captives in Iraq while Iraqi POWS in Iran are treated in the most humane manner, despite Iraqi allegations to the contrary, as testified by several international organisations.

In these operations in the south of the country, northwest of Bostan, several enemy offensives were constantly repelled by Iranian forces. In fierce hand to hand battles Iranian forces eventually gained control of the Tang-e Chazzabeh heights over a 10-day period, killing more than 2,000 enemy troops.

In the wake of their defeat even Iraqi military sources conceded their losses in the region, albeit quoting a smaller figure.

STATEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS' FAMILIES

LD022318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Mar 82

["Second statement" issued by government concerning visits by families of POW's -- date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following its unprecedented initiative on the exchange of families of POW's and in order to prevent any obstacle or delay in starting the exchange program at the earliest possible time, announces its proposed conditions as follows:

1. In confirmation of the points announced in its previous statement, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while naming the exchange bases in Kuwait and Turkey for the second time, takes this opportunity to thank the relevant officials in the two neighboring Muslim countries who declared their agreement with the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Obviously, the facilities of the two neighboring countries will be used equally in the implementation of this pious plan.

2. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran did not put any limits on the number and composition of prisoners' families in its proposal. But, since the Baghdad regime has imposed some limits in this connection, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not oppose these limits in order to prevent the plan from going ahead. This way, a maximum of four relatives of each prisoner, from his parents, spouse and children, can travel to Iran.

3. Since the main aim of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in announcing these visits is merely to emphasize its humane values and to emphasize the spirituality and merciful nature of Islam and the Islamic revolution, priority in the acceptance of prisoners' families will be based on the date of capture. It is hoped that, by doing so, families who have not seen their dear ones for a longer period because of the imposed war will be able to see them before the others.

4. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggests that prisoners' families from both sides should visit the POW camps in their own country before departing for the host country. This suggestion is made in order to provide more comfort for the prisoners on both sides and in order to prove that Iraqi prisoners in Iran live in better conditions than Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

5. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes once again that the exchange of prisoners' families will be carried out solely under the supervision of the International Red Cross and with the cooperation of the Red Crescent, and Iran is not prepared to hold any kind of talks or arrange any sort of meeting with representatives of the Baghdad regime in this connection.

6. The visitors' respective countries will pay for their return journeys and their expenses while staying in the third country, but the host country will pay for the expenses of the visiting families when they are in the country as guests.

7. Since all the necessities for the comfort of the Iraqi prisoners' families are well provided in Iran, it is unnecessary for the Iraqi families to bring gifts, but the guest families, if they like, can obtain gifts of their choice during their visit to Tehran.

8. In its first statement, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the exchange should take place on 11 February, coinciding with the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, but the exchange did not take place on that date because of procrastination by the Baghdad regime. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it is ready to implement the plan at any other date. But Iran announces its opposition to the start of implementation of the plan on 15 March, as is suggested by the Baghdad regime, because this date reminds the Muslim nation of Iran of the sinister birthday of the dictator Reza Khan, and to the suffering nation of Iraq and the zealous Kurds of that country it recalls the memory of the anniversary of the great deceit of the Baghdad regime in giving false autonomy to the Muslim Kurdish people of that country. However, to show its good intentions, it once again announces that it is ready to implement the plan on any date before or after the particular date mentioned above.

9. Every group of families of the Iranian prisoners will be accompanied by a 22-man group from the Red Crescent, comprising several relief workers, doctors and interpreters.

10. Finally, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again emphasizes its eagerness to organize the program for accepting Iraqi families and sending Iranian families as soon as possible; and it hopes that the regime in Baghdad at least will not refrain from implementing a humane and pious plan in this regard.

TEHRAN ASSAILS FRANCE FOR PROTECTING 'CRIMINALS'

CF010454 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "French Socialism Is Responsible for Crimes Committed in Iran"]

[Text] The recent horrible crimes committed in Iran by the enemies of the revolution, which have resulted in deaths, are not the first endeavor of those who are aligned with foreign entities. On numerous occasions, the criminal entities have created bitter incidents such as clashes and terrorist activities, including planting bombs, in order to strike at the Islamic revolution. Every [word indistinct] person who has heard about these incidents has been filled with grief.

Nevertheless, the hopeless endeavors of U.S. lackeys have served no end other than fanning our Muslim people's rage and deepening the revolutionary hatred they feel toward murderers aligned with the United States.

Criminal acts, massacres and terrorist activities are no doubt criticized by freedom-loving circles throughout the world. In fact, everyone who supports criminals in one way or another is regarded as an accomplice in ugly and inhuman acts.

It is a fact that imperialist countries such as France, which makes frequent references to human rights and freedom, are protecting terrorists who have no love for anyone and who are devoid of any mercy -- even for children and pregnant women. It is also a fact that the leaders of groups that are responsible for incidents involving explosions in Iran have no support from our revolutionary people. Regrettably, however, the leaders of these traitorous groups are continuing to enjoy their dirty lives in an imperialist country -- France. They are using the country they live in to realize their plots against (?humanity). These destructive activists are even being supported by the police of the country they live in. No one has any doubt that the explosion that occurred a few days ago and martyred 15 people was caused by one of the groups based in France. Thus, France is responsible for the sad crime that killed innocent children, women and men.

According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, France must account for the shedding of innocent blood in explosions caused by U.S. lackeys. This is because France has become a safe haven for criminals. The open protection France has extended to the enemies of the revolution is an act of open hostility against the Muslim Iranian people, who have forcefully rid themselves of the enemies of the revolution. Is this not because the Muslim Iranian people are safeguarding the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revolutionary government is being supported by the people?

Why is France openly extending protection to criminals? Isn't the French attitude an expression of France's grudge against the Islamic revolution? It is common knowledge that the Iranian people have not surrendered in the face of such futile endeavors. All this [words indistinct] the better understanding of their [word indistinct] faces.

Paris hosts organizations such as the International Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International so it can use them as a club to strike at the destitute people of the world. Paris claims that it is the cradle of democracy. However, it must understand that the crimes committed by puppets aligned with international oppressors, who are protected by the Paris branch of imperialism's intelligence network and police, have a direct bearing on the socialist French Government. Thus, socialism is expected to account for all the deaths and for all the blood that has been shed.

TEHRAN ATTACKS GULF SECURITY AGREEMENTS

GF261754 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Commentary: "The Suspicious Security Efforts in the Gulf Region, Where to?"]

[Text] The reactionist regimes of the region daily reveal their real involvement in the U.S. imperialist (?plot) through their treacherous and oppressive practices. International news agencies have reported that the pro-U.S. regimes in the region are striking at the peoples' righteous aspirations and confronting the Islamic awakening the region is witnessing.

On that account, the Iraqi regime has signed a security treaty with the Saudi regime in order to bolster bilateral security cooperation. Meanwhile, the interior minister of the Al-Sa'ud family announced that similar treaties will be signed between Riyadh and all of the Gulf regimes. These developments have taken place at a time when the Saudi court announced, under instructions from Washington, that it has signed similar treaties with the rulers of Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman.

Within the framework of suspicious efforts made by the puppet regimes in the region, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's tour of certain Gulf countries began with a visit to the Al Khalifah family, which controls the lives of the Bahraini people. The region's political sources affirmed that, during this tour, the YAR president sought to join the GCC with the aim of obtaining certain benefits for his regime and of jumping on the GCC bandwagon, which is run by imperialism.

The Gulf tour made by Douglas Hurd, the British minister of state at the oreign and Commonwealth Office, which started with a visit to Bahrain -- which seems to have become the center of imperialist circles' attention -- is not a mere coincidence. The British minister's statements on his country's readiness to help -- as he puts it -- any Gulf regime stabilize its position in the event it is exposed to any threat [words indistinct]. Douglas Hurd's statements have great significance particularly since they are the first of their kind since the British evacuation of the Persian Gulf region in 1971 -- after the British presence there became ignoble and the will of the region's peoples stronger than that feeble presence, which was replaced by the strong U.S. military presence in collusion with the British Government.

Thus, following the security treaty which the Al-Sa'ud family signed with the Saddam regime and with Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE earlier, the GCC interior ministers conference was held in Riyadh. During this conference, a series of open and secret decisions were made. Among these decisions was the agreement to form a permanent secretariat for the Arab interior ministers to follow up the decisions made by these ministers, especially with regard to the exchange of expertise and information among the security organs of the member countries of the Gulf cooperation alliance.

It is befitting here to note the statements of the Al-Sa'ud family's interior minister at the opening session of the interior ministers conference of that alliance. He emphasized the necessity of bolstering security cooperation among the member countries of the alliance without specifying the nature of that cooperation or the subject of their surveillance and confrontation. However, it seems that these ministers believe that the peoples of the region have not yet awakened and that it is possible for them to cheat these peoples the way they did in the seventies and before.

The conference of the interior ministers of the member countries of the Gulf cooperation alliance -- whose agenda remained a secret even after the conference convened -- discussed means of blocking out the events taking place in the region and suppressing the Islamic awakening that the Arab Gulf peoples are witnessing, thus taking a desperate step to prevent the appearance of Islamic revolutions in these countries similar to the Islamic revolution in Iran that toppled the shah's regime.

On the eve of the interior ministers conference of the suspicious Gulf cooperation alliance, the secret security studies center was opened in Riyadh -- a center which constitutes one of the most horrific intelligence strongholds of suppressing the aspirations and ambitions of the people of the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the Gulf people in general.

Political and security experts have described this center as a horrible laboratory created to suppress the sons of the Arabian Peninsula and the region which contains sophisticated equipment used in various methods of torture and harassment despite the fact that the ruling family of the Arabian Peninsula is striving to show this center as an advanced scientific center like the CIA, which is meant to appear as an advanced criminal laboratory, or the FBI or the [words indistinct] in Britain.

The significance of this security laboratory of espionage lies in the fact that it is directly run by CIA experts and that it will be used as a takeoff point for the diabolic U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in order to deliver the coup de grace to potential revolutions in the Arab region. Because of the vast area, the center occupies, along with an advanced airport, a network of radar and telecommunications equipment that covers the entire Gulf region.

Therefore, it was not by mere chance that the ruling family of the Arabian Peninsula promulgated a series of oppressive decisions against the persecuted sons of the Peninsula.

The most prominent of these decisions, which prohibited the Peninsula's sons from traveling to the Islamic Republic of Iran, was made under false pretenses that will not fool the fraternal Gulf peoples. The most prominent of these pretenses was a statement made by the interior minister of the ruling family, in which he said the sons of the Peninsula will not gain anything in particular by traveling to Iran.

It seems this statement is like the ostrich's attempt to hide its head in the sand to escape from the actual situation and truth. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the statement that the sons of the Arabian Peninsula will not gain anything in particular by visiting Iran? The fact is that the sons of the Peninsula, [word indistinct] and the world's oppressed gain more than one thing from their visit to Iran: the growth of Islamic rebirth among them which induces them to expose the nature of the agents that are subjugating them. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that the interior minister of the Al-Sa'ud family announced that, during their meeting, the interior ministers of the member states of this suspicious alliance would discuss the means to counter the Islamic revolution and that the member states of the alliance are willing to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran if it desists from its current revolutionary policy.

Indeed, what false visions are being formed in the minds of these rulers and their followers who do not hesitate to do anything to counter the Islamic rebirth the peoples of the region are witnessing?

What is strange is that reports from Muscat indicate that the authorities of Qabus' regime have issued a decree banning the entry of cassettes to Oman for fear that these cassettes may contain calls, political or religious talks or Koranic verses calling for resisting tyranny, infidelity and corruption.

This step by Qabus of Oman is nothing new to the oppressed Omani people. His buried father had issued a decree during his time banning the Omani citizen from smoking on the streets, claiming that this is one of the religious taboos, according to his religious jurisdiction [fatwa].

After all this, my brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and all over the Gulf region: How can security agreements between the regimes in the region be justified? What is the meaning of establishing a branch for the CIA and the U.S. Pentagon in Riyadh under the cover of a security studies center? Yes, what do these things mean?

ARABIAN PENINSULA GROUP ASSAILS SAUDI REGIME

GF262052 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula has issued a statement in which it exposes the Saudi regime's treacherous policy, its further agentry to U.S. imperialism and its implementation of U.S. aggressive plots against the peoples of the region.

The statement notes Saudi Arabia's conclusion of military agreements with the United States and its alliances with many Arab countries known for their opposition to Islam, like the Moroccan and Iraqi regimes, at a time when Saudi Arabia has entered alliances against Iran and its Islamic revolution and has prevented the Muslim people in the Arabian Peninsula from traveling to Iran under the pretense that travelers are mistreated by Iranian officials.

The Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula asks the Saudi interior minister: When has this mistreatment taken place? Iran treats all people in an irreproachable, Islamic way. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not treat people the way your government treats the Muslim people in the Arabian Peninsula, treatment which can at best be described as inhumane.

The statement addresses the Saudi interior minister by saying: You have taken such a step because you claim travelers to Iran are insulted. However, you have taken this step out of fear that they will be nourished by the revolution, a thing which will strike you like a thunderbolt. Why this hostility toward the revolution, its men and people when Iran is an Islamic country? Your action will not prevent our people in the Arabian Peninsula from traveling to Iran. Days will prove this, God willing. Your action will not separate our people in the Arabian Peninsula from the people of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Victory is for Islam.

HEJAZI AIDE APPOINTED TO 'REFORM POLICE'

NC012131 Paris AFP in English 2122 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 1 Mar (AFP) -- A commander of Iran's revolutionary guards today was named assistant to the head of Iranian police, the KEYHAN newspaper reported.

Mostafa Hoshiar was named to the job "to create unity between the brothers of the revolutionary guards and police personnel" and "to reform the police", Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told policemen as he made the appointment.

Mr Hoshiar served as a revolutionary guards commander in the city of Qazvin, 200 kms (125 miles) west of the capital.

The interior minister told parliament on January 19 that a purge must be continued among Iranian police, "whose strength has already dropped from 60,000 to 40,000 members since the time of the ex-shah".

IRANIAN EXILE'S ACCOUNT OF REPRESSION

Part I

PM251103 Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Feb 82 p 7

[Part I of article by unnamed Iranian intellectual: "The Account of an Iranian Oppositionist: I -- In Face of the 'Hezbollahi'" -- first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction]

[Text] An Iranian intellectual who has just secretly left his country and whose name we cannot reveal, for obvious reasons, has sent us his account of the trial of strength between the government and the opposition and of the repression carried out by the regime:

Everything started on a spring afternoon in Tehran, 27 April 1981. One of the movement's supporters informed me that the Mojahedin's mothers and wives had decided to hold a march which would start from Palestine Square at 1500. I learned later that 3 hours before the procession assembled, several thousand people had been informed by word of mouth in that way.

Many people doubted the efficacy of the system. Nonetheless, at the appointed time more than 200,000 people took part in the first big mass demonstration against the Khomeyni regime.

"Death to reaction!" "Down with the Islamic Republican Party [IRP]!" and "Long live freedom!" were among the most frequently chanted slogans. A large crowd assembled on the sidewalks warmly welcomed the demonstrators. You felt you were reliving one of the great moments of the revolution before it was taken over by the clerics' clique. The Hezbollahi from the "Party of God" were taken by surprise and could do nothing. The event debunked the myth of "joyous crowds" praising the regime. It was serious enough so far as the government was concerned to prompt Khomeyni to speak and turn those progressive Muslims, hostile to tyranny, into "heretics" and "hypocrites." Indeed, the leaders are convinced that at difficult times the adoption of a stance by the imam is enough to change the course of events, and his message was broadcast on television throughout the day.

Nonetheless, popular resistance does exist and its struggle can no longer be portrayed as part of isolated acts of terrorism committed by "tiny groups cut off from the masses" and "manipulated by American imperialism."

"Long Live Freedom!"

The scene is Tehran, early October 1981, at around 1000. On all sides gunshots and machinegun fire ring out. The Mojahedin are protesting the secret execution of 114 schoolchildren and secondary school students by occupying the capital's main roads. By this new-style demonstration they are also trying to show that, despite mass executions and contrary to the leadership's assertions, they are continuing the struggle against the system. The revolution guards, who are mobilized everywhere, are having difficulty in controlling the situation, while the demonstrators, supported by the population, chant: "Long live freedom!" "Down with Khomeyni!" They set fire to several buses after emptying them of passengers.

The Mojahedin, progressive Muslims, have become the mullahs' main target because their political action constituted the main danger for them. They were persecuted and forced to take up armed struggle in early summer. Since 22 July they have had a radio station "somewhere in the country" which broadcasts "news of the resistance" twice a day. The population was informed by radio and by ingenious devices: graffiti on walls, small pieree of paper slipped into chinks in doors, writing on bus seats, and so forth. Since then, the jamming services, inherited from the shah's SAVAK, have devoted a large part of their activities to Radio Mojahed. At the same time, at the Mojahedin's initiative, a "Resistance Council" has been formed which, in addition to prominent people like Mr Bani-Sadr, has been joined by several organizations, notably the Kurdish Democratic Party and the National Democratic Front.

Clandestinity

In view of the gravity of the situation, Imam Khomeyni explained that SAVAK had some qualities. "Today," he said, "it is the duty of any believer to do SAVAK's work by denouncing oppositionists and suspects. Thus," he concluded, "we will have a SAVAK which comprises 36 million Iranians." Aside from the Hezbollahi, the members of the Tudeh Party and the majority Feda'i are virtually the only ones to have responded to that invitation.

The establishment of new forms of united action has also become a major concern of the non-Islamic left. For instance, the (minority) Feda'i guerrilla organization has put forward a joint program with two other Marxist-Leninist groups. The Feda'i do not belong to the Resistance Council, which, in their view, is dominated by "liberals," but they say they are prepared to unite with the Mojahedin to overthrow the regime.

An increasingly large section of the population is demonstrating its hostility to the regime by taking risks to help the fighters. On many occasions drivers have been seen to hand the keys of their automobiles over to members of the Mojahedin and give them "gasoline vouchers." In the morning, when people arrive at work, they exchange the latest news gathered from the clandestine press -- pamphlets, handwritten sheets distributed at night -- or by listening to Persian-language broadcasts by foreign radio stations. Even in the most remote regions everybody listens to the BBC at 1945.

Another form of popular resistance is ..e resumption of the strike movement over the past few months. With the help of inflation and unemployment, there are an increasing number of strikes in various sectors of the economy, especially the oil and petrochemicals industries in Shiraz, the automobile and shoe industry in Tehran and food industries in (Abhar). One new factor is that, in addition to professional claims, there are now political demands -- relating particularly to the release of people imprisoned for their opinions.

Since the start of the summer, several tens of thousands of oppositionists -- intellectuals, workers, students and revolutionary militants -- have gone into hiding. In a basement furnished only with a few essentials, one of Iran's greatest poets is putting the final touches to a lengthy poem dedicated to the members of the resistance; "How many synonyms for freedom, how many synonyms for victory, all of them wonderful...."

Among supporters of the regime nobody or almost nobody now claims to be a member of the IRP. They proclaim themselves to be Hezbollahi ("members of God's Party"). For the first time, at the beginning of the summer, during the presidential campaign, the population was urged to vote for the "Hezbollah candidate," Mr Raja'i.

The "Hezbollah" is not a political party in the usual sense of the term. It is a state of mind shared by all who believe in the infallibility of the government embodied in the imam and believe that they must defend it at all costs.

Those whom we have met, often very young, present a very broad spectrum. One of them, having lost his father while still very young, was brought up by his mother in a small provincial city. A housewife who has become an "outcast," she draws a pension and takes part in demonstrations. Her son claims to be a student: In fact, he was sent to London in 1979 to organize the Hyde Park demonstrations and to attack meetings of "taquti" (supporters of the former regime).

Climate of Terror

Another of them sells propaganda pamphlets in the university quarter, where he can always take action against militant oppositionists or arrest suspects. A third, wearing a lightweight camouflage jacket, booty from the historic days of the revolution, comes from Esfahan: A tailor's apprentice, he is now unemployed but survives by collaborating with the revolution guards and the committees. He took part in plundering the headquarters of the writers' association and swears on the Koran -- at the risk of lying -- that he discovered in the office's "antitank ammunition, missile launchers and machineguns."

A former nightclub dancer, now repented, has become one of the torturers at Evin Prison, and a twist-dancing champion has been appointed bodyguard to dignitaries of the regime. A former lottery-ticket seller under the shah, deprived of his job by the dissolution of the lottery, has been recruited by the Hezbollahi and commands an attack unit. One of his companions, about 30-years old, declares that, thanks to the revolution, he has "repented" and stopped using narcotics. He is willing to do anything, like another former addict who burned down Abadan's Rex Cinema in August 1978, causing the deaths of hundreds of members of the audience. "It was fuel to the flames of the revolution," he said, justifying his conduct during a show trial in the summer of 1980.

Similar provocations are still planned to defend the regime. Thus, in Rasht attacks are organized on the mosques; in Shiraz a bus was set on fire (the official toll was two children burned to death), in Tehran bombs were exploded outside a large store and at the railroad station (November 1981). Every time the deaths and casualties are attributed to the oppositionists, especially the Mojahedin.

The committees, the revolution guards (20,000-30,000 of them), the Islamic associations, the ideological services and the mosque committees constitute the regime's strike force. After recruitment from among the underprivileged sectors of urban society, they are paid, housed and fed and used to maintain a climate of terror throughout the country and have access to public funds to this end.

Neighborhoods, factories, schools and administration are closely hemmed in on all sides. In the cities, the neighborhood committees, generally based in a mosque and placed under the responsibility of a mullah, have an effective means of control: the distribution of indispensable ration coupons, which are granted only in exchange for a full account of the activities of all members of the family concerned. Popular humor has invented a nickname for this information network: "couponism, the ultimate stage of Khomeyni-ism."

In the factories and administrations, the Islamic committees, which are reticent concerning their number and composition, are known only by the communiques that they publish in favor of the regime and by the posters that they paste on office and workshop walls. Nevertheless, the number of participants in the noon prayers, celebrated daily at workplaces, may be an indicator. Thus, at the Tehran palace of justice, frequented by several thousand people, including civil servants, we counted some 40 faithful. The situation seems scarecely different elsewhere.

The whole apparatus of government is set in motion for the Friday prayers: Guaranteed free transport, distribution of cigarettes, compulsory participation by soldiers, public sector workers and schoolchildren. However, the 30,000 level is passed only with difficulty in the capital. In other cities, the disaffection is even greater.

Education Purge

At the start of the school term last September, Education Minister Parvaresh, depicted as one of their inspirers by the arsonists of the Rex Cinema during their trial, stated that the new [academic] year would be one of "consolidation of the Hezbollahi's reign in schools." The operation began in February 1979 with a revision of school books: Awkward subjects were censored and banned, particularly books concerning natural sciences, history and literature. It continued with a massive and continuing purge of teachers (several tens of thousands) and the installation of a "pedagogic affairs service" represented in all establishments by an "adviser" holding the posts of head of information, ideological leader and propaganda agent.

In close contact with the committees and mosques, these advisers set about drawing up lists of suspects and dissidents last summer. Thus it was that at the start of term and at the repeat examinations [for failed candidates] pupils well known for their hostility to the regime were arrested by the committees. The long list of those executed in recent months includes a large number of them.

Occasionally reality outstrips fiction: During an art class the teacher drew an opium pipe and asked the pupils for the object's name. He put other questions to those who recognized it. One pupil trapped in this way described how, from time to time, his father smoked opium. The following day the father was arrested by the antidrug committee and shot.

On arrival, schoolchildren are thoroughly searched: Every morning at Tehran's (Tarbiyat) School the operation comprises seven stages and everything is searched, from briefcases to the linings and seams of the clothes, to check that the children are not concealing "subversive literature."

Several schools even prohibit children from leaving their classrooms during breaks for fear of seeing them write "counterrevolutionary" slogans and graffiti on the walls.

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Hezbollahi have been using every method to impose terror. In one of the capital's high schools, where the pupils had demonstrated their sympathy for some purged teachers, the revolution guards executed four teachers, including (R. Marandi), (H. Assadian) and (A. Firuzan), before their very eyes.

Perhaps providing a key -- in the psychological sphere -- to the behavior of the caste to which he belongs and of the theocratic rule, which the regime claims to uphold, the grand mullah of the Esfahan committees once expressed this thought: "All my life I have only preached about God's paradise. On occasions I doubted whether it was real. Now, when I see my simplest desires become reality as soon as they are expressed and when from the helicopter of the former commander in chief of the army I look at the city beneath my feet, I can see that paradise exists for sure and that I am in paradise.

Part II

PM241109 Paris LE MONDE in French 21-22 Feb 82 p 3

[Part II of article by unnamed Iranian intellectual: "The Account of an Iranian Oppositionist: II -- Everyday Repression"]

[Text] A poet and writer hailing from the south, a face familiar to the shah's jailers, he settled in Tehran after the downfall of the monarchy. He was active in the ranks of revolutionary organizations. Since the beginning of the absurd war with Iraq he felt unable to live far away from his native region. However, any visit to Ahvaz or Abadan was very risky -- being known to the Hezbollahi (the followers of God) he could be arrested at any moment. And yet he went back several times. Every time he returned to Tehran he was increasingly upset -- he had seen nothing but ruins.

According to him, repression, famine, sickness and prostitution are rampant in refugee camps. "The revolution guards compete among themselves for the privilege of distributing gift food parcels. They frequently come to blows in front of astounded war victims. I have seen parcels being opened a week later -- the bread in the parcels had become moldy. Since the revolution guards had closed down the improvised bakeries set up and managed by the war victims, it was necessary to buy whatever they [the guards] were selling."

Our interlocutor recalled that every time he read a newspaper a group of people would form around him and he would be asked the same question: "When will Olof Palme return?" All hopes were pinned on the former Swedish prime minister, who undertook several missions on the United Nations' behalf to seek a solution to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

However, the authorities are now locked in conflict not only with Iraq -- they have declared a ruthless war against all whom they see as their adversaries or who refuse to comply with their demands. In Kordestan, for instance, the struggle against the autonomists is mainly waged by the revolution guards, who shrink from no action, however abominable.

When we were crossing the region, an old woman who gave us shelter for a night gave us just an example of this: "We are the most oppressed people in the world," she told us, overcome with grief. "No one mentions what is happening here." Not long ago the revolution guards had raided a neighboring house in which a baby had just been born. "One of them pretended to be playing with it. He placed the barrel of his gun near the mouth of the baby, who instinctively began to suck it. The guard then squeezed the trigger...."

On the other hand, here is an occurrence which, even though it falls more within the province of petty interference, illustrates the style of daily intimidation:

Some revolution guards arrested a high school teacher and took him to the district's revolutionary committee. On their way they stopped in front of a house -- "let's go and annoy the colonel a bit." Two of the men returned laughing 30 minutes later and told their colleague who had remained at the wheel the following story in front of the witness, who retold it to us: "He looked very upset. He wanted to know what we wanted.... We searched everything. He was following us, apprehensively pleading his innocence. We found a few vegetables, a little butter and two chickens in the refrigerator. I told him that he was engaged in black market activities. I made a speech on counterrevolutionaries who organize famine. I even mentioned the imam. You should have seen how he was trembling and crying, explaining that he had bought the two chickens at the grocery store without realizing that he had thus joined the ranks of counterrevolution...and that he had a wife and children and asking us to forgive him for his mistakes.... We took one of his chickens and left. The poor man felt very much relieved."

The Murder of the Poet Sa'id Soltanpur

No newspaper in Iran or abroad has described the murder of the poet Sa'id Soltanpur. A man of the theater, militant revolutionary and member of the executive committee of the Iranian writers' association, he was considered one of the great figures of modern literature. A high school teacher who had spent many years in the shah's jails, he was "purged" again and retired from his post in September 1980; he lived with his old mother, also a retired teacher.

He was to have married one Thursday in spring 1981, 16 April. A quiet wedding in one of those hastily-built mass-produced houses in the Tehran suburbs. Everything was going normally; some guests, lots of children, the old mother was happy; Sa'id's years of prison were now far behind. In the midst of the songs and uproar, a man appeared and asked them to point out Sa'id to him. He grabbed him by the sleeve and tried to drag him away. Sa'id resisted. The man took out a gun to force the poet to follow him. He showed an arrest warrant issued by the Central Committee against "Sa'id and his companions" for "illegal currency dealings." Other committee members turned up, armed with rifles and submachineguns. Yielding to the family's requests, they granted the "culprit" a 3-hour respite. The ceremony went ahead in anxiety. The armed men seemed increasingly impatient. The house was surrounded and the armed revolution guards were occupying the roofs of neighboring buildings. There were more talks; the tone grew heated and several rifle shots were fired in the air. Sa'id finally agreed to go, but on foot, accompanied by his wife. Hand in hand into the night, the newlyweds began their strange wedding procession, followed by the guests. The committee members tried to block their way. More gunshots. The whole district was in the street. The committee members then forced the couple to get into their automobile, with punches and blows from their rifle butts.

The next morning, news of the arrest spread throughout the city but the press mentioned not a word of it. The family and the writers' association took the usual steps and pursued them untiringly. There was no official reaction other than the astonished indignation of Mr Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, to the flood of letters and telegrams sent from all corners of the world "in connection with an obscure poet."

After some weeks Sa'id was eventually authorized to receive visitors. His mother was able to bring him some clothing and medicine. He managed to get the following message out: "After almost 2 months' detention 'they' have just issued another arrest warrant, since the first was nothing but a forgery issued by who knows whom. So much for the currency dealings: Now the charge is membership of the minority Feda'iyan-e Khalq." Sa'id asked the association to issue a complaint on his behalf for "illegal detention, trespassing, and so forth."

It was about to do so when the 28 June attack on the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party killed Beheshti and over 100 other officials of the regime. The following Monday the BBC announced in its broadcasts in Persian the execution of some 40 oppositionists, including Sa'id Soltanpur. His mother was still asleep when her other son, warned by friends, went to the morgue to seek the body of the murdered poet. He was lying surrounded by the companions with whom he had spent his last few hours: students, workers, members of the Mojahedin. Their average age was 15-16.

When he was arrested Sa'id Soltanpur had had a foreboding: "Our wedding," he said, "is Lorca's blood wedding." The name of the fascists' victim came naturally to his mind in Khomeyni's Iran.

The murder of Sa'id and his comrades opened a new chapter in the repression. Since then all records for barbarity have been broken: executions of pregnant women, of children under 15-years old, of old people over 65 years, the sadistic torture of prisoners and the rape of young girls.

A Horrible Discovery

The regime thinks up refinements of atrocity worthy of a chamber of horrors. At the outset, mock execution "ceremonies" were organized before the actual execution. Thus Sa'id and his companions had to wait a whole night bound to stakes in the execution yard. Another innovation was to cover the victims with U.S. flags as a sign of high treason. The latest of these inventions is as follows: To demonstrate good faith, repentant prisoners have to execute their friends, sentenced during "instant trials" by a "Judiciary" which ignores all the rights of prisoners and of defense.

The bodies of the executed people are unbelievably mutilated: eyes put out, ears cut off, legs and arms broken, burns on their chests, and so forth. The "secret" executions have become increasingly numerous over the past few weeks. The names of the people shot are no longer announced and wild rumors circulate about individual prisoners. There is an increasing number of disappearances, as shown by the missing person notices published in the Tehran dailies: Each day about 10 of those notices ask for news of a man or woman who "has not returned home" since a date which, strangely enough, is that of the last demonstration. Judging from their photographs, most of the people who have disappeared seem to be aged between 20 and 25 years.

The prisons are worse than overcrowded: Evin, in north Tehran, built to hold 1,200 prisoners, now holds over 10,000. A witness told us that he had spent some time in a cell built for 11 where the 70 occupants took turns to sleep 2 hours at a time, one group standing up so that the others could lie down. The only food they received was a bit of bread. They were privileged, for others were packed in corridors, their eyes blindfolded. A "suspect" who had been arrested during a "raid" had spent more than 10 days like this before anyone had asked him his identity.

Resistance nevertheless continues, as this extract from a letter written by a prisoner in Evin shows: "Comrades, I will describe the situation to you briefly. The only tangible facts here are the mass executions. We have become accustomed to them. Every day serveral of us are led out and taken before the firing squad. We start chanting and wait for the departure of the next group. The fighters say their farewells gaily and with a smile, as though they were going to a celebration. 'We are stronger than death' is what everyone repeats to himself. Here, death has no meaning. We joke about it; even the common criminals have gotten used to it."

Such blind repression, far from putting an end to opposition, is only isolating the regime still further, an isolation that reached the point where on 7 January Ayatollah Montazeri himself, who is considered as Khomeyni's successor, said on the occasion of unity week: "Well-intentioned brothers are acting under the influence of false climates and mysterious instigations" (sic).

He added that in this way they were contributing to "worsening the climate of suspicion and distrust felt by the people and to isolating committed elements. By their illegal and thoughtless intrigues, they are harming the prestige of the Islamic revolution at a time when our society badly needs security." Denouncing the "violence and spirit of revenge which dominate revolutionary tribunals," he concluded by saying: "Reaction and the absurd threaten the revolution from within...."

What word shall I choose to describe the situation prevailing in my country? Civil war? Classic repression? A phase of the "revolutionary process"? To be able to answer that question one would first have to answer many others, notably the question of the nature of the regime. Surely it is a counterrevolution led -- around an isolated and ill leader -- in the name of God by a clerical clique? The people, far from leading the revolution, are its victim.

NVOI STRESSES NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS

TA021233 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Revolution's Perpetuation Is Conditional on the Implementation of Fundamental Reforms"]

[Summary] Simultaneously with the taking of positive steps by the Islamic government toward fulfilling the revolution's ideals and goals, we see that not only the overt enemies of the Iranian revolution but even some elements who in all likelihood believe in the revolution have become alarmed at the revolution's progress in a popular and anti-imperialist course, and are taking steps on a path desired by the enemies.

"According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, these ignorant friends of the revolution stamp every positive and revolutionary measure of the Islamic government with a communist label, without taking into consideration the nature and content of the Iranian nation's glorious revolution. Thus, willingly or unwillingly, they raise obstacles on the path of the revolution's perpetuation.

"It is an undeniable fact that following the expulsion of the step-by-step government of the liberals and the dismissal of the traitor Bani-Sadr and his associates and followers from government positions, the way has been opened for the revolution's perpetuation and progress. And, fortunately, revolutionary measures and steps toward this end are being taken by the Islamic government.

"However, one cannot and should not overlook the fact that what has been accomplished is very negligible compared to what could have been accomplished. What is the reason for this? The reason for this should not only be sought in the plotting and subversions of the foes of the revolution, but also in incompetenace and, in many cases, in the creation of difficulties by some superficial and monopolist officials who are unfortunately under the influence of long-term imperialist and reactionary propaganda."

The revolution does not end with the assumption of power alone. The prerequisite for safe-garding and perpetuating the gains of every popular and anti-imperialist revolution is that the ruling government figures carry out fundamental transformations in the various aspects of the country's economic and social life, and that they implement basic practical and reform measures to improve the living and cultural standard of the millions-strong toilers and the deprived.

It is in this respect that one can see that every measure taken by the Islamic government for the benefit of the millions-strong masses is confronted with the opposition and obstruction of different groups, and that the implementation of such a measure is prevented one way or another.

Numerous examples can be shown in this connection, the outstanding one of which is the implementation of broad and democratic agrarian reforms for the benefit of millions of toiling farmers. We all witnessed how certain bills, such as the nationalization of foreign trade, town land and housing transactions met with strong obstacles both in the Islamic Majlis and outside. In connection with our country's relations at the international level, these groups raise the mythical Soviet danger, and by implementing Brzezinski's scenario they raise the Soviet bogey in order to create alarm and fear.

The ultimate and basic aim of these groups is, above all, to consign the danger of world-devouring America to oblivion, to create an anti-Soviet climate, to deprive the Iranian revolution of the support of friends in the international arena, to weaken the revolution and, if possible, to overthrow our Islamic Republic's system.

One must be vigilant in the face of such subversive acts by some of the ignorant friends of the revolution who dance to the tune of the liberals and the Brzezinskis. The Iranian revolution must continue its progress on a popular and anti-imperialist path, and this is not possible except with the implementation of fundamental and revolutionary reforms for the benefit of the millions-strong toiling masses.

In many respects, the revolution's progress is also linked to the recognition of its true friends and foes by the Islamic government.

CLANDESTINE ON EXCHANGE OF OPPONENTS WITH TURKEY

NC261424 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] News agencies have reported that the Islamic regime's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has asked Turkish authorities to hand over to the Tehran government opponents of the regime who are on Turkish territory.

The interesting point is that in return Velayati has proposed to hand over to the Ankara government Turkish terrorists and murders who are in Iranian prisons.

It should be noted that a large number of patriotic Iranian Armed Forces personnel and civilians are living in Turkey, especially on that country's border with Iran, and they are in the process of struggling against Khomeyni's regime.

The mullah's foreign minister impudently and shamelessly has placed these freedom-seeking patriots in the same category as a bunch of terrorists and expects the Ankara government to give a positive reply to this shameless proposal.

BRIEFS

SHIRAZ GOVERNOR APPOINTED -- The Fars governor general has appointed Mohammad Mehdi Shoja'i as Shiraz governor. [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82 GF]